Ministries/Departments, 17799 posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and 19326 *posts* reserved for Scheduled Tribes were unfilled as on 31.12.1998.

(b) There is generally a time lag between the dates of vacancies *and* their filling up. The implementation of the reservation policy is the concern of the Ministries-Departments and necessary action for filling up the posts is required to be taken at their end. However, instructions have been issued again recently for the Ministries' Departments to make concerted efforts to fill up backlog vacancies.

Incentives to retired Government Employees

589. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in various developed countries numerous incentives are given to the retired Government employees;

(b) whether any study has been undertaken to find out such incentives given to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to consider grant of certain concessions namely LTC, concessional air/tail travel, etc. to the retired Government employees; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Fifth Pay Commission in its Report has made a study of retirement benefits available to Government employees in some of the developed countries. Most of these retirement benefits are in the form of relief to pensioners against inflation, terminal benefits payable at the time of superannuation, family pension, medical facilities etc. which have already been extended to Central Government servants. India compares favourably with the countries studied by the Pay

Commission. However, the Government has not undertaken any separate study in this regard.

(d) and (e) The Pay Commission has not recommended extension of the facility of Leave Travel concession to retired employees of the Central Government. The Pay Commission has also not found any merit in the demand for travel concessions to pensioners. The Commission, however, recommended that the existing 25% concession in rail fare should be allowed to Central Government Pensioners on attaining the age of 60. The Government has considered this recommendation and has not found it feasible to accept because it will involve change in the definition of senior citizens and also because it will be discriminatory *vis-a-vis* other senior citizens.

Regional office of Staff Selection Commission at Patna

† 590. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a regional office of Staff Selection Commission in Patna, the capital of Bihar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Each Regional Office of Staff Selection Commission (SSC) caters to the requirements of two or more States/UTs. The Central Region Office of the Commission at Allahabad caters only to the States of U.P. and Bihar. In view of this and the financial constraints, it has not been possible to open a separate Regional Office at Patna.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.